

REMARKS

Applicant has amended each of standing independent claims 1, 10, and 38 for clarification purposes. No new matter has been added. Support is found in [0009] and [0026] of the specification.

On page 2, paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-7,9-11, 13, 19-22, 26-28, 30-32, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dupont, U.S. Patent Appln. Publication No. 2002/0187705 ("Dupont '705"). On page 4, paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claims 24, 26-28 and 33-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Dupont '705 standing alone. On page 4, paragraph 7 of the Office Action, claims 6, 11, 15-18, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Dupont '705 further in view of Weingarten U.S. Patent No. 3,706,216. On page 5, paragraph 8 of the Office Action, claims 8, 12, 14, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Dupont '705 further in view of Sica U.S. Patent No. 6,043, 600. On page 5, paragraph 9 of the Office Action, claims 23 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Dupont '705 further in view of Duzyk et al U.S. Patent No. 5,532,549. On page 6, paragraph 10 of the Office Action, claim 37 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Dupont '705 further in view of Payne WO 02/16049. On page 6, paragraph 11 of the Office Action, claims 38-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Dupont '705 further in view of Weingarten and Sica. On page 7, paragraph 12 of the Office Action, claim 42 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Dupont '705 further in view of Weingarten, Sica and Duzyk et al.¹

¹ The Office Action actually states "Dupont '325 (sic) further in view of Weingarten '216 and Sica '600, as applied to claim 38..." but the reference to Dupont '325 is obviously in error as it was not applied to claim 38 and instead Dupont '705 was obviously intended as it was applied to claim 38.

Thus, each and every basis of rejection is grounded on the asserted applicability of the primary reference Dupont '705, and in turn, each and every rejection rises or falls according to the applicability of the teachings and/or suggestions, or absence thereof, in Dupont '705. For the reasons more fully set forth below, the applicant respectfully submits that Dupont '705 not only fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of the current claims pending in this application but indeed Dupont '705 clearly and directly teaches away from the present invention. Hence, the applicant respectfully traverses the standing rejections and requests the withdrawal thereof and the allowance of all of the standing claims of this application.

Each independent claim in the present application now clarifies that the method of the present invention intentionally leaves the entirety of the end caps -- not just the electrically conductive pins thereof but the entire cap structure -- of the fluorescent light tubes uncovered during the coating thereof. Specifically, each claim defines that the end caps are "uncovered" for "direct" contact "of the coating with the main light body and with the end caps without any other element physically intervening the coating and the end caps." Not only does Dupont '705 fail to disclose or suggest this aspect of the applicant's invention, Dupont '705 teaches the importance of always covering the end caps during coating.

Specifically, while Dupont '705 teaches that the application of a protective polymeric coating to a fluorescent lamp should be extruded directly onto the lamp's glass envelope to achieve "intimately conforming embracing contact" of the coating with the glass envelope, Dupont '705 on the other hand teaches that the end caps, called ferrules in the Dupont disclosure, should first be covered, prior to the coating step, by a plastic end cap or a length of silicone tubing, secured to the end caps/ferrules either by an initial application of an adhesive to the end

caps or an initial pre-coating immersion of the end caps into powdered ethylene vinyl acetate. See paragraphs, [0005], [0007], and [0021] in Dupont '705. Although Dupont '705 describes differing embodiments and alternatives, every disclosed embodiment and alternative provides for some initial application to each end cap of adhesive or pre-coating followed by a protective plastic cap or sleeve, after which the coating of the lamp applies the protective polymeric coating over such cap or sleeve.

Thus, Dupont '705 fails altogether to teach or suggest the concept of leaving the end caps "uncovered" during the coating process for "direct" contact of the coating not only with the main light body but also with the end caps "without any other element [e.g., adhesive, pre-coating, protective cap or sleeve] physically intervening the coating and the end caps." Indeed, the fair teaching to be discerned from Dupont '705 is that the end caps must not be left uncovered. Clearly, Dupont '705 not only fails to teach or suggest the present invention, Dupont '705 clearly teaches to the contrary of the present invention, i.e., Dupont teaches away from the present invention. As such, the present invention is clearly not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Dupont.

None of the secondary, tertiary or other references of record in this application contain any teachings that overcome the deficiencies of the Dupont reference, whereby it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of record should be withdrawn.

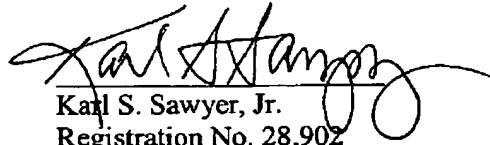
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that the present claims are in condition for allowance and reconsideration is requested. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

At the least, the applicant submits that the amendments herein presented are entitled to entry in this application as they do not raise new issues of patentability nor require further

searching, and the amendments refine the issues for purposes of placing the application in better condition for appeal.

Should there be any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



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